

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-28 have been rejected.

Claims 1-3, 10, 13, 14, and 22 have been amended.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to due to informalities. Accompanying this Amendment is the Submission of Formal Drawings with formal drawings attached.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 10, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is purportedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The Office Action states that the claimed data structure (characterized by the Office Action as functionally descriptive material) stored on a machine readable medium does not produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Office Action, p. 2. However, as noted at MPEP § 2106.01, “a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure defines structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and the computer software and hardware components which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed data structure stored on a machine readable is usable to perform specific functions that produce tangible results. Further, claim 10 has been amended to recite that the data structure is configured to be used in translating invoice adjustment information, which produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to these claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 7,043,687 issued to Knauss et al. ("Knauss"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In order for a claim to be rendered invalid under 35 U.S.C. §103, the subject matter of the claim as a whole would have to be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. *See* 35 U.S.C. §103(a). This requires: (1) the reference(s) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations; (2) there must be some teaching, suggestion or motivation to combine references either in the references themselves or in the knowledge of the art; and (3) there must be a reasonable expectation of success. *See* MPEP 2143; MPEP 2143.03; *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 1355-56 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portions of Knauss fail to disclose each element of Applicants' claims. This is unsurprising since Knauss is directed to transferring data between a source and target data model using a virtual document. Knauss, Abstract. This is in contrast to the claimed invention, which is directed to translating invoice adjustment information from several business applications to a common data object format and then translating the information from the common data object format to several application-specific data object formats. Specification, Abstract.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have chosen to address this rejection by amendment. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 13, and 22 to include limitations of substantially the following form:

A method comprising:

- receiving invoice adjustment information in an application-specific data object format from each of a plurality of processing systems, wherein each processing system comprises an application, and wherein the invoice adjustment information is received at a transport layer;
- receiving configuration information relating to the processing systems at the transport layer, wherein the configuration information is configured to be received via an adapter; and
- translating the invoice adjustment information into a common invoice adjustment data object format, wherein the translating comprises:
 - accessing a first storing unit configured to store transformation information;
 - accessing a second storing unit configured to store defined business processes; and

using a business process controller configured to execute the business processes, wherein the execution is in response to predefined events.

See, e.g., claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portions of Knauss fail to teach all of the claim limitations listed above. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to these claims, as well as claims 2-9, 14-21, and 23-28, which depend therefrom, and an indication of the allowability of same.

Applicants have amended independent claim 10 to include limitations of substantially the following form:

A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, wherein the data structure
uses an extensible markup language format,
is configured to be used in translating invoice adjustment information into a common
invoice adjustment data object format, and
comprises:

- an identification data element;
- invoice adjustment base data element;
- a billing data element;
- a status data element; and
- a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element.

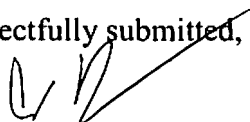
See claim 10. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portions of Knauss fail to teach all of the claim limitations listed above. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to this claim, as well as claims 11 and 12, which depend therefrom, and an indication of the allowability of same.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5092.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition for such extensions. Applicants also hereby authorize that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to Deposit Account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,



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